

The Bethlehem Star

Empowered by Jesus to be His hands and feet, Bethlehem is a caring Community called to be His compassionate presence in this world and to build community by reaching out with the life-giving Word to those in our neighborhoods who are wearied and burdened by life's demands and changing Circumstances.

BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH
201 E. Watauga Avenue
Johnson City, TN 37601
Rev. Steven Harmon, Pastor
Church: 423-926-5261

July 2020, Volume XX, No. 7

Reach Up, Reach In, Reach Out



It's rummage sale time at Bethlehem Lutheran Church!!! This is our biggest fundraiser of the year. We will have our first work night on Sunday, July 5th at 6pm. We'll also have work nights on Thursday and Friday of that week. Our Rummage Sale will be on Saturday, July 11th from 8-2. If you still have any unwanted items...please contact David Nutter at: 931-273-5275. The youth will gladly accept any donations and will pick them up from your house if needed. We are also going to head to Doe River Gorge on Saturday, July 25th. DayQuest is simply a day for people in the community to come out and enjoy the beauty of the Gorge, the fun activities that Doe River Gorge provides, and spend time relaxing with family and friends. There are multiple activities to choose from throughout the day as we grow together in Christ as a youth group! Some of these activities include: 700-foot water-landing zipline ... blasted by the Blob ... Swim in the lake with a white-sand beach, water volleyball and basketball, water slides and the lily pads (water obstacle course). We'll be able to see it all from the giant climbing tower overlooking the lake. Lastly, please continue to pray for Heidi and Annie. They are continuing their internship with the pro-life organization Center for Bio-Ethical Reform (CBR) in Knoxville. They are thankful for your support and generosity. We are also planning to continue our Bible study this month every Sunday from 9:15-10:30 in the youth room. We hope you all have a wonderful month of July. Please continue to keep our group in your prayers.

Month of July at a Glance:

- Sunday, July 5th..... Sunday School Class from 9:15-10:30
- Sunday, July 5th..... Youth Group Meeting 6-8pm
- Thursday, July 9th..... Youth Group Work Night 6-8
- Friday, July 10th..... Youth Group Work Night 6-8
- Saturday, July 11th..... Rummage Sale
- Sunday, July 12th..... Sunday School Class from 9:15-10:15
- Sunday, July 19th..... Sunday School Class from 9:15-10:15
- Saturday, July 15th..... DayQuest at Do River Gorge..... All Day Long...



Saturday, July 11th from 8:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
Great buys of all kinds. Come out and support this youth project. You might just find that one a kind item you have been looking for!!!
You may bring any items you have for the sale on Sunday night, July 5. from 6-8p.m. or Thursday night, July 9, from 6-8 p.m.



Notes from the Pastor's Desk

We are Jesus' hands and feet.

I apologize in advance for the length of this article. I just couldn't condense it. So here it goes.

The Fourth of July – Independence Day – fireworks – picnics – hot summer days – we celebrate the freedoms we enjoy here in America. With the recent protests against injustice and inequality that have come in response to recent tragic events, this July 4th is probably going to have a different focus.

Many will celebrate the freedoms guaranteed by the Constitution of the United States. Others will stand in protest of freedoms denied. And even if both seem to be in opposition to each other, they both will celebrate the freedom that is ours here in America.

They will both celebrate the freedom of expression – the freedom to protest – the freedom to stand against injustice and tyranny. One will be focused on the past. The other will be focused on the present. They are not the polar opposites that they appear to be.

I've read and heard a lot about prejudice and social injustice over the last few weeks. Prejudice has been identified by many as a systemic problem in America which is at the core of injustice and oppression.

And if America wasn't founded on the principles of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness, I would agree. But because America is founded on individual worth and liberty, the problem isn't our system of government. The systemic problem is in the nature of man.

And you don't change the system by dealing with the symptoms of a flawed nature. You can pass laws to guarantee equal justice for all (and we should), but that won't bring any true change to the system that is the nature of man. To eradicate prejudice and social injustice, the system – the nature of man – has to be remade.

And that means that's we, as members of the Church – the Body of Christ, have a story to tell. We have a solution to share. That solution is Jesus Christ. He is the new system. He is the author and perfecter of a new creation.

The Son of God took on human flesh so that He could put it to death – so that He could replace it with a new nature – with the nature that Adam and Eve enjoyed before they sinned and ate the forbidden fruit.

His first step in re-creation was to live a perfect life – to fulfill the demands of God's Law. He was tempted in every way, but He did not sin. By His perfect obedience, He became the perfect Lamb of God who would give his life for the salvation of man.

He took our sinful nature – that flawed nature inherited from Adam – that flawed nature that is the breeding ground for all that is wrong with how we treat our neighbors to the cross where He put it to death. The old system was destroyed. It was swallowed up by death. But that's not the end of the story. Jesus didn't remain in the grave. He rose from the dead. Death was swallowed up by His life.

And He has come to us through the waters of Baptism to unite us together with Him in His death and life. We have been crucified with Christ and yet we live. And the life that we now live, we live by faith in the Son of God who loved us and gave His life for us.

We have been given the opportunity and privilege to share that new life – that resurrected life – with all we meet – to come to them as unworthy recipients of God's gift of new life, so that they can know they are loved – so that they can be changed from the inside out.

We need to work against injustice and oppression wherever and whenever it rears its ugly head. We need to work to make the freedoms this country was founded on accessible to all. We need to do that. And while we do that, we need to be sure that we share the hope that is ours in Jesus Christ and the resurrection He share. We need to share Christ so that He can continue His work to make all things new.

God comes and invites us to join Him in His house and at His table on a regular basis.

During this time of restrictions, we will be

live streaming our worship service at

10:45 am each Sunday.

We are fortunate that the call for distancing does not prevent us from worshipping together. As we answer God's invitation, here is the schedule of worship times. See you there!

July 5 . . . 5th Sunday after Pentecost

8:00 am

SERMON TEXT: Matthew 11:25-30

SERMON THEME: "Rest for the Weary"

LITURGY: **Blended w/ Communion**

10:45 am

SERMON TEXT: Matthew 11:25-30

SERMON THEME: "Rest for the Weary"

LITURGY: **Blended w/ Communion**

July 12 . . . 6th Sunday after Pentecost

8:00 am

SERMON TEXT: Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

SERMON THEME: "The Seed or the Soil"

LITURGY: **Divine Service 1 w/ Communion**

10:45 am

SERMON TEXT: Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

SERMON THEME: "The Seed or the Soil"

LITURGY: **Divine Service 1 w/ Communion**

July 19 . . . 7th Sunday after Pentecost

8:00 am

SERMON TEXT: Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

SERMON THEME: "Wheat or Weeds"

LITURGY: **Divine Service 3 w/ Communion**

10:45 am

SERMON TEXT: Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

SERMON THEME: "Wheat or Weeds"

LITURGY: **Divine Service 3 w/ Communion**

July 26 . . . 8th Sunday after Pentecost

8:00 am

SERMON TEXT: Matthew 13:44-52

SERMON THEME: "He Sold All He Had"

LITURGY: **Divine Service 4 w/ Communion**

10:45 am

SERMON TEXT: Matthew 13:44-52

SERMON THEME: "He Sold All He Had"

Sew Crazy



Sew Crazy will be meeting on Saturday, July 18 to start working on a new project. We will begin construction of ladies bed jackets for hospice patients. These are simple garments made from cotton or knit.

Turn-in will be sometime in the autumn season. The July meeting is also the date for the turn-in of baby items for Agape. In addition, Stella from H.O.P.E. will be dropping by during the meeting to pick up the pillowcases. Sew Crazy made 220+ pillowcases that will be delivered through the youth participants at H.O.P.E. to both at risk children and senior ladies in nursing homes. The lunch theme for the July meeting: Brown Bagging It. Please bring your own lunch & drink. Sew Crazy is free and open to all who would like to help us sew items for charitable organizations within the Tri- Cities. For more information on the group, please check our website <http://www.sew-crazy.org> and we are also active on Facebook.

If you would like to send letters of encouragement to Sarah Treece at the Air Force Academy here is her address. She is limited to just letters at this time.

Basic Cadet Sarah Treece
PO Box 5346
USAF Academy, CO 80841



The Church office is open

Monday - Friday
9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Saturday:
9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Susan is off on Thursdays
Pastor is off on Fridays
Voice mail and e-mails
are checked regularly.

Statistical Report for June

<u>Attendance</u>	<u>8:00 a.m.</u>	<u>10:45 a.m.</u>	<u>Offerings</u>	
June 7	38	41	General Fund	\$ 6,974.00
			Shaneyfelt Mission	\$ 50.00
			Soc. Ministry Upgrade	\$ 2,500.00
June 13	35	51	General Fund	\$ 3,885.00
			Pruitt Memorial	\$ 25.00
			Sid Campbell Mem.	\$ 100.00
			Melting Pot	\$ 40.00
June 21	32	51	General Fund	\$ 2,500.00
			Soc. Ministry Upgrade	\$ 100.00
			Melting Pot	\$ 20.00
June 28	22	55	General Fund	\$ 3,356.00
			Shaneyfelt Mission	\$ 50.00
			Social Media Upgrade	\$ 600.00
			Melting Pot	\$ 100.00
On-line Giving in June				\$ 3,130.00
Spending Guidelines approved for 2020				\$272,805.04
Offerings needed each week in 2020				\$ 5,246.25



Happy July Birthdays to

Eddie Burrow & Jean Zastrow (1),
Bob Wohlford (4), Peggy Webb (5),
Leah Harmon (7),

Bill Donaldson & Roy Knispel (8),
Kay Simmons (11), Sean Talbert (12),
David Howland (15), Paula Treece (17),
Jim Gobble (20),

Susan Burkey (24), Sarah Shaneyfelt (25),
Renatta Stratton & Zelea Neal (27), Sarah Treece (28),
Heidi Whaley (30), Frank de Nobriga (31)

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR ESTHER-MARY CIRCLE

This year's Mid-South LWML District Convention will be a little bit different – being a virtual convention. Our Esther-Mary Circle ladies will join the ladies of Concordia Kingsport on **Saturday, July 18th**

and enjoy the convention together. Our Esther Mary-Circle submitted a mission grant request for The River Women's Ministry to purchase new washing machines for the facility to assist women in need to do their laundry AND the grant request was one of 14 selected by the voting delegates. This is great news for The River and the Esther-Mary Circle.....Also officers elected for the new administration include Candy Habich as District President. Candy is a member of Concordia, Kingsport and Susan Burkey was elected as chairman of the District Nominating Committee – Congratulations ladies!!

BETHLEHEM BOARD BRIEFS

Your Board of Directors met on June 17th and discussed the following:

We continue to make progress on identifying the equipment needed to enhance our livestream capabilities. Also work continues to ensure that our sound system is operating as it should and that it will provide a direct audio feed to our live stream. We appreciate those you have made a special offering for this very important outreach ministry. If you have not done so please consider making a special contribution to help offset these expenses. Our thanks to Cary Allen and Andy Tester who are coordinating this effort.

We want to express our thanks to Ted Wilson who has volunteered to help maintain our church property while our custodian, John Oxendine is recovering from surgery. This is quite an undertaking and I am sure he would appreciate any help if you are willing to do so.

Also, thanks to each of you for your contributions during May. We reported to you after the April board meeting that we were \$22,000 behind in our contributions versus expenses for the year. During May, we reduced that deficient in half, to \$11,000.

We discussed our annual church picnic which will be held on Sunday, September 6th. We will have church service and a picnic at either Rotary Park or in our own parking lot. We need to wait to make a decision until we get a clearer picture as to how many people the city will allow at the park.

We accepted Zack Olsen's resignations from the Board and we appreciate his serving and involvement. Since elections will be held later this year we are not replacing him at this time. However, if there is someone who would like to serve on the Board please let one of the Board members know.



Mormon Study

The final installment of our Lutheran Hour Ministries series on The Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter Day Saints, the Mormons, will be presented on Saturday, August 1st at 9AM in the Fellowship Hall. Perhaps you've been visited by one of the LDS missionary teams. In addition to wrapping up our study, we'll focus on how to witness to these young men who are spreading the false doctrine of Mormonism and need to hear the saving grace of Jesus Christ. Please come and join us for this informative session.

Serving This Month

8:00 a.m. ELDER OF THE MONTH: Ted Wilson & Larry Larson		10:45 a.m. ELDER OF THE MONTH: Frank deNobriga	
USHERS		USHERS	
7/5	Robert Woody Ann Larson Tom Watson		Lee Talbert Silas Whaley Robb Whaley
7/12	Tom Watson Adam DeMello Ann Larson		John Port Ben Wohlford Nicholas Leone
7/19	Robert Woody Adam DeMello Tom Watson		Cary Allen Tim Treece Dylan Treece
7/26	Roy Knispel Ann Larson Robert Woody		John Port Nicholas Leone Andy Tester

Altar Guild for July: Madaline Lewis & Wanda Burrow



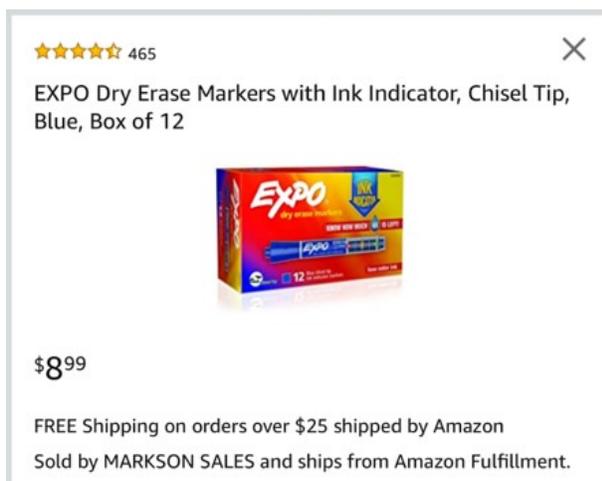
Live Streaming of
the 10:45
service will continue
each week.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
5 Worship, 8:00 a.m. Bible Study & Sunday School, 9:15 a.m. Choir Practice, 10:20 a.m. Worship, 10:45 a.m. Ensemble Rehearsal, 5:00 p.m. Youth Set Up for Rummage sale – 6 – 8 p.m.	6	7	8 Hand Bell Practice, 5:30 p.m. Board of Directors, 6:00 p.m. Instruction Class, 7:30 p.m.	9	10	11 Rummage Sale, 8:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
12 Worship, 8:00 a.m. Bible Study & Sunday School, 9:15 a.m. Choir Practice, 10:20 a.m. Worship, 10:45 a.m. Ensemble Practice, 5:00 p.m.	13 Hand Up Board, 4:00 p.m. Sew Crazy Board Meeting, 7:00 p.m.	14 Ladies Bible Study, 10:00 a.m.	15 Hand Bell Practice, 6:00 p.m. Instruction Class, 7:30 p.m.	16	17	18 Sew Crazy, 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. LWML Virtual Convention @ Concordia Kspt., 9:00 a.m.
19 Worship, 8:00 a.m. Bible Study & Sunday School, 9:15 a.m. Choir Practice, 10:20 a.m. Worship, 10:45 a.m. Ensemble Practice, 5:00 p.m.	20	21	22 Hand Bell Practice, 6:00 p.m. Instruction Class, 7:30 p.m.	23	24 Lunch for the Melting Pot time TBA	25 Men's Bible Study, 9:00 a.m. Youth to Doe River Gorge
26 Worship, 8:00 a.m. Bible Study & Sunday School, 9:15 a.m. Choir Practice, 10:20 a.m. Worship, 10:45 a.m. Ensemble Practice, 5:00 p.m.	27	28 Ladies Bible Study, 10:00 a.m.	29 Hand Bell Practice, 6:00 p.m. Instruction Class, 7:30 p.m.	30	31	

Work Nights for Rummage Sale, 6-8 p.m.

COLLECT DRY ERASE MARKERS FOR SCHOOL

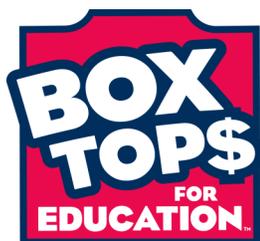
The Esther-Mary Circle's project for this summer is collecting markers for Paula Baskin's school. There will be a container the Fellowship Hall for you to place your donations in. This worthwhile project helps those children who come from low income families to have the necessary supplies to assist them in learning. See picture below for what to get. They can be bought locally or on Amazon.



ONLINE SHOPPING THROUGH AMAZON SMILE

REMEMBER IF YOU MAKE ON-LINE PURCHASES, go to smile.amazon.com and Bethlehem can receive a rebate for a portion of what you spend.

It's a WIN-WIN for everyone!!!



HOW TO EARN BOX TOPS MAKES IT EASY.

No more clipping. No more sending Box Tops to school. All you need is your phone. Download the ALL-NEW Box Tops app, shop as you normally would, then simply scan your store receipts to find participating products. The app will automatically credit your school's Box Tops earnings online.

When you log on it will ask you to pick a school for the box top credits to go to. Of course you can pick ANY school but the church has been giving the box tops you brought in to Paula Baskin's school.

Highland View Elementary, Bristol VA 24201